

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 HA-05 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-10
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O 252251Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4692
INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CARACAS IMMEDIATE
GDDKFDQ/AMEMBASSY LISBON IMMEDIATE 67
AMEMBASSY MADRID IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PORT
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE IMMEDIATE
USCINCSO QUARRY HGTS, CZ

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2829

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PEPR, PINS, DR
SUBJECT: VIEWS OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE GUZMAN

REF: STATE 132787 AND 132788

1. EMBOFF MET WITH ANTONIO GUZMAN THIS AFTERNOON TO DISCUSS HIS VIEW, AND THE VIEWS OF OTHER PRD LEADERS, OF THE CONCERNS SET FORTH IN DEPTELS. AS OF 6:30 P.M. WE AWAIT REPLY TO OUR REQUEST, PUT TO GUZMAN AND TO OTHER PRD SOURCES, FOR A MEETING WITH PARTY SEC GEN PENA GOMEZ, AND FROM HIM RESPONDING TO QUESTIONS DEPTTEL 132788.

2. GUZMAN, MANIFESTING THE SAME CONFIDENCE AND DETERMINATION THAT HE WILL TAKE POWER ON AUGUST 16 WHICH HE HAS SHOWN IN PREVIOUS RECENT CONTACTS WE HAVE HAD WITH HIM, SEEMED SLIGHTLY SURPRISED THAT WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT THE PRESENT SITUATION. "NOTHING ABNORMAL WILL OCCUR HERE NOW,"
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HE SAID.

3. WONDERING WHETHER PENA GOMEZ OR OTHER MEMBERS OF THE PARTY ARE CONVEYING ALARMIST REPORTS TO WASHINGTON, HE SAID HE AND JACOBO MAJLUTA WILL MEET WITH PENA TODAY TO TAKE UP THIS MATTER. EMBOFF REQUESTED PERSONAL MEETING WITH PENA, WHO IS KEEPING HIMSELF SCARCE FOR REASONS OF PERSONAL SECURITY.

GUZMAN SAID HE WOULD ARRANGE THAT TOO.

4. WITH RESPECT TO THE PRESENT SITUATION, GUZMAN SAID HE FEELS ANY MORE USG ACTION BEYOND PRESIDENT CARTER'S TWO STATEMENTS, THE FIRST OF WHICH HE SAID WAS DECISIVE IN A CRITICAL MOMENT, WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE. HE WENT ON TO SAY SUCH ACTION COULD BE USED BY GODR AND REFORMISTA PARTY AS PROOF OF UNFAIR U.S. INTERVENTION ON BEHALF OF PRD, BEFORE FINAL ELECTION TALLIES ARE IN. PEOPLE MIGHT EVEN BEGIN TO THINK U.S. WAS IMPOSING A PRD GOVERNMENT HERE, WHICH WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE SINCE "EVERYONE KNOWS WE HAVE WON IT."

5. GUZMAN SAID HE IS NOW CONVINCED BALAGUER KNOWS HE HAS LOST; HIS CONVICTION IS BASED ON INFORMATION COMING FROM SOURCES WITHIN THE NATIONAL PALACE, INCLUDING BALAGUER'S OWN PERSONAL SECURITY GUARD. THIS IS A CHANGE FROM GUZMAN'S ATTITUDE EARLIER THIS WEEK, WHEN HE CLEARLY WAS SUSPICIOUS OF NEW REFORMISTA/MILITARY MANEUVERS THAT WOULD TAKE SHAPE IN THE DAYS AHEAD DESIGNED TO FRUSTRATE THE WILL OF THE ELECTORATE. HIS APPRECIATION OF THE STANCE OF THE MILITARY -- THAT THEY HAVE RELUCTANTLY AGREED TO STAND ASIDE WHILE HE TAKES POWER -- SQUARES WITH OUR OWN. HIS ASSESSMENT OF THE "DISINFORMATION" EFFORT OF BONILLA AYBAR AND VINCHO CASTILLO IS THAT THEY ARE INEFFECTUAL. "THE DOMINICAN PEOPLE WON'T ACCEPT ANOTHER ELECTION (I.E., A RE-RUN OF MAY 16)," HE SAID, BECAUSE THEY HAD ALREADY VOTED

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FOR CHANGE IN MASSIVE NUMBERS. BASELESS FRAUD CHARGES, HE SAID, WON'T AFFECT THEIR THINKING.

6. DISCUSSION TURNED TO JCE'S LONG COUNT AND CONCERNS THIS HAS RAISED HERE AND ABROAD. GUZMAN, OBVIOUSLY CONFIDENT THAT HE HAS THE VOTES, SAID HE AND THE PARTY ARE CALMLY AWAITING THE RESULTS, WHETHER THE ANNOUNCEMENT COMES FRIDAY OR THE PROCESS STRETCHES OUT INTO NEXT WEEK. "WE HAVE MATURITY AND DISCIPLINE AND WILL MAINTAIN OUR CALM AND TRANQUILITY UNTIL THE DECISION IS ANNOUNCED."

7. THE FIRST THING HE WILL DO WHEN THAT DECISION COMES DOWN, HE SAID, WILL BE TO ASK TO MEET WITH BALAGUER TO SEEK THE SITTING PRESIDENT'S COUNSEL ON HOW THE NEW GOVERNMENT SHOULD APPROACH THE PROBLEMS OF THE COUNTRY. THE GESTURE SHOULD HAVE A FURTHER CALMING EFFECT IN THE NATION. FOLLOWING THAT HE INTENDS TO BEGIN STRUCTURING THE NEW ADMINISTRATION. GUZMAN SAID HE HAS HEARD ALL SORTS OF STORIES FLOATING ABOUT THAT HE PLANS TO APPOINT THIS PERSON TO THAT POST AND THAT PERSON TO THIS POST, ETC.; THIS IS NATURAL AND NORMAL, HE SAID, AS PEOPLE, INCLUDING IMPORTANT PRD LEADERS, SEEK TO INFLUENCE HIS APPOINTMENTS AND POLICY DECISIONS.

8. BUT HE SAID HE HAS BEEN TELLING HIS PEOPLE THAT HIS WILL NOT BE A "PRD GOVERNMENT," THAT HE WILL SELECT THE BEST MEN AND WOMEN HE CAN FIND, EVEN REFORMISTAS, TO FORM A GOVERNMENT OF "NATIONAL UNITY." HE SAID HE RECOGNIZES THAT THE COUNTRY FACES ENORMOUS PROBLEMS AND HE WILL NEED ALL THE TALENT HE CAN ASSEMBLE TO DEAL WITH THEM. HE SAID HE HAS BEEN IN CONTACT ALL WEEK WITH THE MOST IMPORTANT SECTORS OF THE SOCIETY ("LAS FUERZAS VIVAS") AND FINDS THEY ARE VERY MUCH DISPOSED TO GIVE THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO HIS GOVERNMENT. "I CONTINUE TALKING WITH THEM, AND THIS IS THE MESSAGE THEY GIVE ME."

9. THE DISCUSSION CONCLUDED ON THE QUESTION OF PENA GOMEZ'
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FUTURE. HE WILL REMAIN AN IMPORTANT FIGURE IN THE PARTY, GUZMAN SAID, BUT PENA HAS COMMITTED HIMSELF TO LEAVING THE COUNTRY EITHER BEFORE OR IMMEDIATELY AFTER AUGUST 16. HE SAID THAT PENA HAS TOLD HIM HE WILL ACCEPT NO GOVERNMENT POST, WHICH EXCLUDES THE MUCH DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY PENA WOULD TAKE UP A DIPLOMATIC MISSION, BUT THAT HE, GUZMAN, WILL SEE TO IT THAT HE IS PROVIDED FOR FINANCIALLY (PENA HAS NO WEALTH). GUZMAN VOLUNTEERED THAT ARRANGING PENA'S FUTURE WILL BE A DELICATE TASK. PENA'S ENORMOUS CHARISMA AND HIS GREAT ENERGY AND INTELLECTUAL CAPACITY MUST BE CHanneled INTO CONSTRUCTIVE ENDS. GUZMAN WOUNDERED ALOUD ABOUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT A MAJOR FOREIGN UNIVERSITY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN PENA'S SERVICES.

10. IT WAS REVEALING THAT IN THIS DISCUSSION GUZMAN MADE IT VERY CLEAR THAT A KEY FIGURE IN HELPING PENA LOOK TO THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE IS MAJLUTA, WHO IS PERSONALLY QUITE CLOSE TO THE PARTY'S MAN OF THE MASSES.
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